



(AMENDED 10/15/20)
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NEW CITY LIBRARY
September 17, 2020
(Via Zoom Video Conferencing)

(AMENDED 10/15/20):

The following Minutes were amended to insert language in two separate sections: Amendments were requested by Zuckerberg and Sasson.

Zuckerberg's amendment is as follows:

*In Section III(a)(ii), the word "may" should be inserted before the word "exceeds" in the first paragraph of the Motion and the "s" removed from the word "exceeds." The corrected sentence should read as follows: Whereas, the adoption of this 2022 budget for the New City Library requires a tax levy increase that **may exceed** the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and*

Sasson's amendment is as follows:

*In Section III(b)(i), insert the words "as an alternative to VMDO should VMDO not meet budget objectives" in the fourth paragraph, at the end of the third sentence, following the word "Associates." The corrected sentence should read as follows: "In comparing the two architectural proposals, Sasson urged the Board to consider Lothrop Associates **as an alternative to VMDO should VMDO not meet budget objectives.**"*

PRESENT:	Victor Berger, President	Edward Bertolino, Trustee
	David Zuckerberg, Vice-President	Phyllis Morena, Trustee
	Denis O'Hanlon, Treasurer	Patricia Ranieri, Trustee
	Robert Axelrod, Secretary	Jeffrey Sasson, Trustee
		Patricia Voce, Trustee

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Marianne Gallagher, Director
Shibu Abraham, Facilities & Finance Manager
Kelly Corrado, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: -Ralph Sabatini, Trustee-Emeritus
-Donald MacDonald, Architect Consultant

I. INTRODUCTORY

a. Meeting Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

II. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Axelrod presented to the Board for acceptance the proposed *Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of August 20, 2020*, and the proposed *Minutes of the Special Meetings of the Board of Trustees of September 2, 2020, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.*

- Upon motion made by Sasson and duly seconded by Voce, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of August 20, 2020, and the proposed Minutes of the Special Meetings of the Board of Trustees of September 2, 2020, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.*
The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#1-09/2020)

III. REPORTS

a. Personnel and Finance Committee (O'Hanlon, Chair):

i. Financial Report of August 31, 2020, and Warrant #2:

Treasurer O'Hanlon reported that the Library's finances are in good shape.

O'Hanlon presented to the Board for approval the *Financial Report of August 31, 2020, and Warrant #2.*

- Upon motion made by O'Hanlon and duly seconded by Zuckerberg, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board approve Warrant #2 in the amount of \$268,986.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#2-09/2020)

ii. FY2022 Proposed Budget:

Treasurer O’Hanlon presented to the Board for approval a 2% increase for the *FY2022 Proposed Budget*.

- Upon motion made by O’Hanlon and duly seconded by Zuckerberg:

Whereas, the adoption of this 2022 budget for the New City Library requires a tax levy increase that may exceed the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the Library Board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the New City Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2022 by at least sixty percent of the Board of Trustees as required by state law on September 17, 2020.

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#3-09/2020)

b. Building and Grounds Committee (Sasson, Chair):

i. Redesign Project:

President Berger offered the opportunity for *Director Gallagher* to express her opinion regarding which architect the Library should hire for the *Redesign Project*. Gallagher addressed the Board and urged the Board to consider *VMDO Architects*.

President Berger offered the opportunity for *Architect Consultant Donald MacDonald* to report on his objective evaluation of the two proposed architectural firms’ bids. MacDonald addressed the Board and urged the Board to consider *VMDO Architects*.

President Berger offered the opportunity for *Trustee-Emeritus Sabatini* to express his opinion regarding which architect the Library should hire. Sabatini addressed the Board and urged the Board to consider *VMDO Architects*.

President Berger invited *Building & Grounds Committee Chair Sasson* to offer his report. Sasson addressed the Board and summarized several projects on

which he had worked over the years as a member of the *Committee*. In comparing the two architectural proposals, Sasson urged the Board to consider *Lothrop Associates as an alternative to VMDO should VMDO not meet budget objectives*.

President Berger invited each *Trustee* to offer their opinions of the two architectural firms' presentations.

President Berger requested that each *Trustee* vote on their choice of which architectural firm the Library should hire. The results of the vote are as follows:

- Lothrop Associates (*Bertolino, O'Hanlon, Ranieri, and Sasson*)
- VMDO Architects (*Axelrod, Morena, Voce, and Zuckerberg*)

President Berger cast his vote for *VMDO Architects* thereby breaking the tie of the results of the above vote of the *Trustees*.

A discussion followed regarding negotiations with *VMDO Architects*.

President Berger formed the *Negotiation Committee* to conduct negotiations with *VMDO Architects* and appointed the following Board members to the *Committee*:

- Berger
- Bertolino
- Sasson

President Berger requested that *Director Gallagher* meet with *Treasurer O'Hanlon* and *Finance Manager Abraham* to recommend a proposed budget for the construction prior to meeting with the newly-formed *Negotiation Committee* and *Architect Consultant MacDonald* to discuss negotiations with *VMDO Architects*.

c. Policy and Planning Committee (Morena, Chair):

Morena had nothing to report.

d. Legal Affairs Committee (Axelrod, Chair):

Axelrod had nothing to report.

e. Nominating Committee (Sasson, Chair):

Sasson reported that the three incumbent *Trustees* (*Bertolino, Morena, and O’Hanlon*) have submitted their intent to re-run in the *Trustee Election 2020*.

Copies of the *Application for Trustee of the Board* are available at the Library and on the website. The deadline to submit an *Application* is 4:45 p.m. on October 1.

f. Patio Paver Project Committee (Axelrod, Chair):

Axelrod reported that two additional pavers have been sold this month, totaling 64 pavers thus far. Both pavers are in memory of former trustee Anthony Feliciano.

g. President’s Report (Berger):

President Berger had nothing to report.

h. Director’s Report (Gallagher):

Director Gallagher referred to her written report.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Communications (Axelrod, Chair):

Secretary Axelrod had nothing to report.

b. Program Book Selection Grievance:

Axelrod expressed his concern of the Library’s promotion and appropriateness of a particular book (and the way it was promoted) that the Library was providing for free to patrons, to coincide with a program that the Library was sponsoring as part of its current programming line-up.

A discussion followed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Upon motion made by Zuckerberg and duly seconded by Axelrod, it was:

RESOLVED, *that the Board adjourn the meeting.*

The Resolution was passed unanimously. (RM#4-09/2020)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Robert Axelrod, Secretary
Board of Trustees
NEW CITY LIBRARY
September 22, 2020

RA/kc